



TARGET AMERICA:

Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause

LOUISIANA
STATE MUSEUM

On Exhibit at the Louisiana State Museum, Old U.S. Mint • March 3 – November 24, 2010

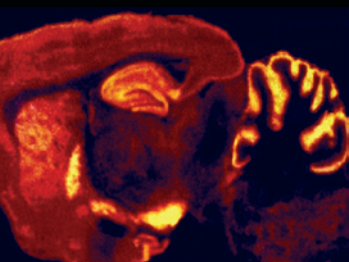
Exhibit Guide

TARGET AMERICA:

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This toddler was rescued during a meth lab raid and was found covered in battery acid from playing with an old car battery. Lab paraphernalia was also found buried in the child's outdoor play area. This toddler tested positive for methamphetamine.



Smoking marijuana can be addictive. THC attaches to receptors in the brain (bright yellow and orange) and impacts learning, memory and coordination.

Most Americans are unaware of the science behind the damaging effects of illegal drugs on the mind and body, or of the other tremendous costs associated with the production, sale and use of illegal drugs. The costs to society—estimated at more than \$180 billion a year—are born by all of us in some way. Despite the fact that the vast majority of Americans are not drug users, we pay for users' lost productivity, their health care, criminal justice costs, child welfare costs, and the impact their drug use has on our own health and safety. This exhibit is designed to open eyes to the science behind illegal drug addiction and the countless costs of illegal drugs—to individuals, American society and the world—and to provide food for thought on how each and every one of us can make a difference.

Featured in the Exhibit:

The Cost of Drugs

Any of us could be tragically affected by the choices made by those involved with drugs, and many of us are. As we share the highways with a drug-impaired driver, or let our children play in the neighborhood, or as we check into an average motel room in mid-America, we may be paying the price for others' drug use.

Drugs and the Body

We have learned a great deal about the impact of drugs on the brain and the body, thanks in large part to the work of dedicated scientists at the National Institute on Drug Abuse and other institutions. This section provides the visitor with an overview of the latest findings and breakthroughs, and clearly demonstrates how and why drugs change us physically and mentally.

Drugs and the Environment

From the clear-cutting of rain forests in Central and South America for the planting of coca fields, to the destruction of national forests in the United States for the growing of marijuana, to the dumping of hazardous waste by-products into the water table after the manufacture of methamphetamine, illegal drugs have an impact on the environment with far reaching consequences.

Breaking the Cycle

Illegal drug abuse has been a concern in the United States for more than 150 years. The result has been a vicious cycle of drugs and drug-related violence that has consumed many American families. A combination of law enforcement, drug abuse education and treatment programs have been and continue to be implemented across the country to combat substance abuse and break that cycle.



Admission

Admission is free

Exhibit Schedule

March 3, 2010 – November 24, 2010

Old U.S. Mint Hours of Operation

Open Tuesday through Sunday 10am to 4:30 pm

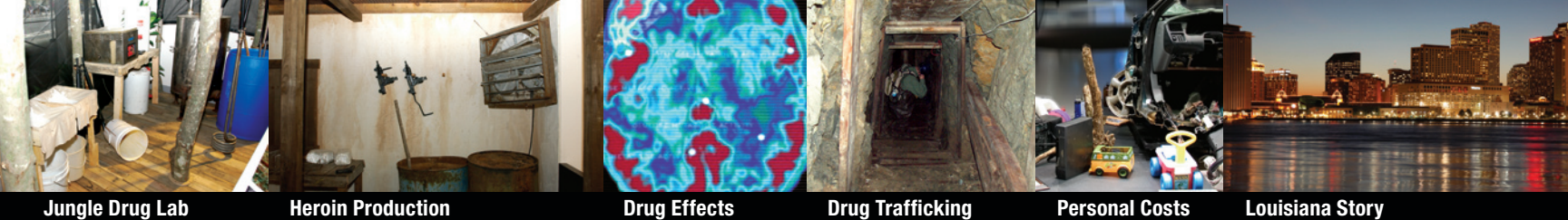
Group Tours

Please contact Ms. Gaynell Brady at (504) 568-7056 or gbrady@crt.state.la.us.

Location

The Old U.S. Mint is located on Esplanade Avenue across the street from the French Market. Please visit the State Museum's website at <http://lsm.crt.state.la.us> for directions.





Jungle Drug Lab

Heroin Production

Drug Effects

Drug Trafficking

Personal Costs

Louisiana Story

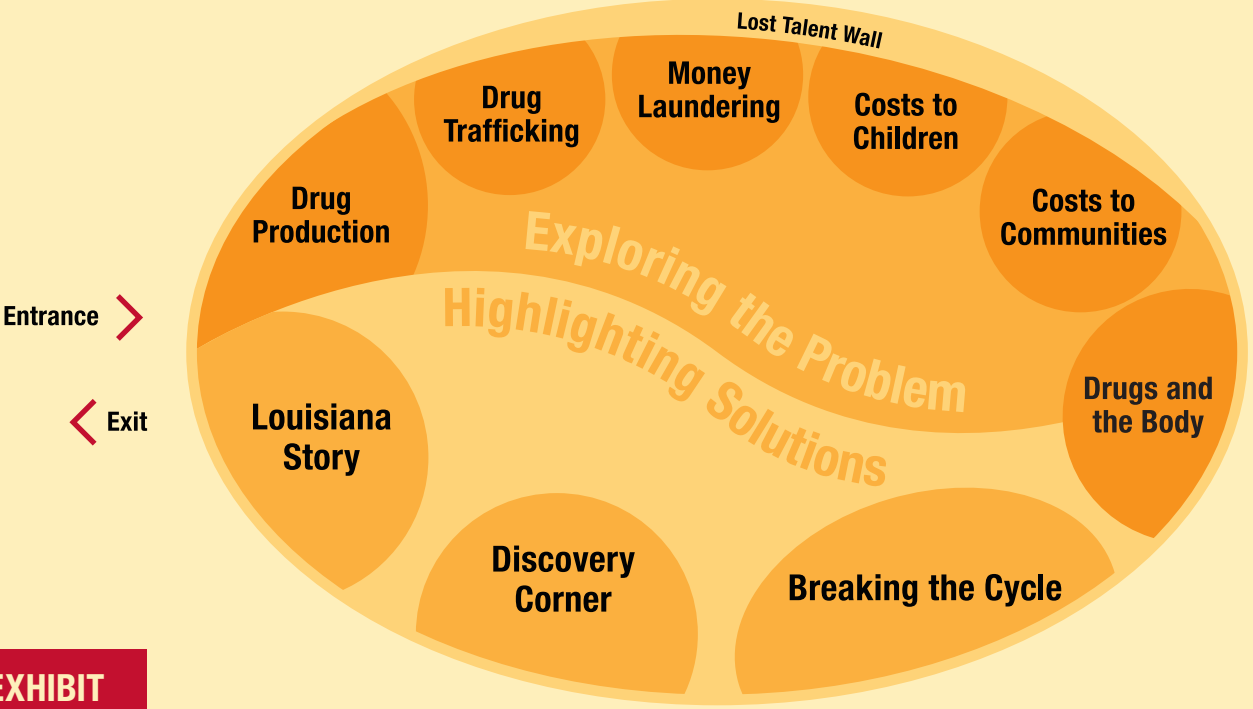
TARGET AMERICA: Opening Eyes to the Damage Drugs Cause looks at the story of drug abuse from initial production to the profound impact it has on all of us. Open your eyes to the science behind illegal drug abuse and addiction and explore the many costs and consequences to individuals, American society and the world.

For more information visit:
www.targetamerica.org

View an actual South American jungle coca processing lab and a re-created **Afghan heroin factory**. Get an in-depth look at drug production, trafficking and money laundering over time. **Lay inside a simulated MRI machine** to view brain scans and learn about the terrible toll drugs take on the body and mind. **Hear true stories** of addiction and recovery from addicts themselves. **View actual wreckage**

from a drug-related car accident, a tenement crack-house, and the bedroom of a young teen that has accessed a website that sells illegal drugs. Stop by the **Discovery Corner** for educational take-home literature and other resources. Share your own experiences and suggestions for keeping friends and family away from drugs. Check out the exhibit resource desk for a **schedule of events**.

Due to images and content that may be too intense for small children, the State Museum advises parental discretion when bringing young children to this exhibit.



INSIDE THE EXHIBIT



The Louisiana Story

From opium dens in nineteenth-century New Orleans, to the psychedelic 1960s epitomized by the movie *Easy Rider*, to today’s underground meth labs in rural parishes, the long history of illicit drugs and addiction in Louisiana has followed national patterns with some unique differences. On display at the Mint are rare artifacts illustrating the history of drug use in Louisiana from the 1860s to the present. One room in the Louisiana exhibit tells the stories of residents whose lives were cut short by drugs—a powerful reminder that drugs here, as everywhere, inevitably lead to tragedy.

The exhibit chronicles the impact of drugs on popular culture as well as its social costs.

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Adult & Family Programs

Dealing with Drugs in the Home
Saturday, March 6, 2010
10am–12pm & 2–4pm

Dealing with Drugs in the Home
Saturday, March 13, 2010
10am–12pm & 2–4pm

Mission Possible: Become a DEA Jr. Agent for a Day
Saturday, April 10, 2010
1–3pm

Jazz & Drugs: The Romance
Saturday, May 8, 2010
2–4pm

Feathers, Beads and Thread
Saturday, June 12, 2010
1–3pm

Mission Possible: Become a DEA Jr. Agent for a Day
Saturday, July 10, 2010
1–3pm

Drumming: The Heartbeat of Our Community
Saturday, August 14, 2010
1–3pm

Homeland Security Post-9/11
Saturday, September 11, 2010
2–4pm

Guns of the DEA
Saturday, October 9, 2010
2–4pm

High on Life: Badge Workshop for Girl Scouts
Saturday, October 23, 2010
10am–3pm

Celebrating Communities
Saturday, November 13, 2010
12–3pm

All programs will take place at the exhibit at the Old U.S. Mint. Contact the LA State Museum Education Department to attend. (504) 568-7056

Online Education Resources:
www.targetamerica.org